Administrations. The difference between the return to the farmers and the retail prices for various vegetables and fruits depend on various factors such as the type of commodity, its perishability, distance from markets etc.

Setting up of Commodity Exchanges

2627. SHRI JANADHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up Commodity Exchanges in the country as part of its proposal to reform the commodities markets, whereby farmers would be free to sell their foodgrains anywhere they want to; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortfall in Sugar Production

2628. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether annual sugar production is expected to fall to12.5 million tonnes during the current sugar season October, 2004 to September, 2005;

(b) if so, whether it is against 40 million tonnes recorded during the last year;

(c) if so, whether India would go out for imports as the shortfall in output will put pressure on prices of domestic level;

(d) the steps Government propose to take to meet the shortage of sugar in the country; and